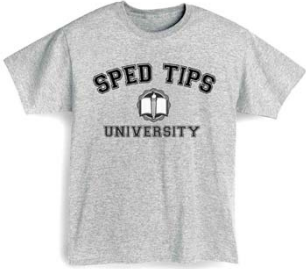


Do Not Tweet at an IEP Meeting....


Presentation by Attorney
Anne Treimanis




Top Tips & Strategies for Successful Student Educational Programs

Meet Anne Treimanis

- Attorney – Law practice limited to representing students with disabilities and their families, civil rights, and LGBTQ issues.
- Author of *Do Not Tweet at an IEP Meeting*; and other tips and strategies to negotiate special education services.
- World-wide presenter including Latvia, Poland, The Netherlands, and India.
- Adjunct Professor for University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, CT, teaching graduate classes in special education law.
- Mom and foster mother of children with disabilities.
- Meet Anne at <http://spedlawyers.com>





✓ Tip: Model respectful language
disabilityisnatural.com


Preparing for the IEP



The image shows the Starbucks logo on the left and a white mug with a black handle on the right. The mug has the text "Before the IEP Meeting" printed on it.


Becoming an Effective Advocate and Sharpening the Saw

✓ Tip: You need to become an expert in your child's disability and in the law and in advocacy strategies. Listen to instructional recordings in the car – your vehicle should be a college on wheels.



A simple black silhouette of a car, shown from a side profile.

It's okay to miss school if you must protest on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court!




A photograph of a person standing on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court building, holding a sign. The building's classical architecture with columns is visible in the background.

✓ Tip: Model Advocacy Skills

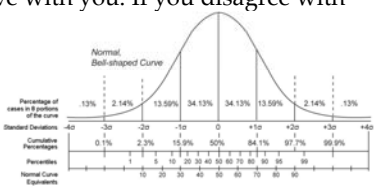
Time Tested Strategies on Ensuring Parent Participation

- ✓Tip: Create a Parent Concerns document – and yes, it can be 5 pages long




Surviving the Meeting

- ✓Tip: If an evaluation is being presented, you are prepared! You read the eval ahead of time; met with the evaluator; checked with Google to learn everything about the test – especially checking the publisher’s website. You have a full size robust laminated Bell Curve with you. If you disagree with the eval, you are NOT afraid to ask for an IEE and you know what that means.



Standard Deviations	Percentage of Area Under Curve
-2	2.14%
-1	13.59%
0	34.13%
+1	34.13%
+2	13.59%
+3	2.14%

What a Good IEP Looks Like – Smart Goals



- ✓Tip: Parent concerns must be reflected. You’ll submit pages of them before the meeting!
- ✓Tip: Make sure you use SMART goals. You’ll request a copy of the proposed goals before the meeting.
- ✓Tip: Think about prompting levels. What good is mastering a goal that requires teacher prompts?
- ✓Tip: Your ESY program does NOT have to be the district “one size fits all” program.

Free
Appropriate
Public
Education

✓Tip: Read the Endrew F case to see what the US Supreme Court has to say about FAPE!

Universal design in architecture
Guggenheim Museum

✓ Tip: Instead of asking for “special” things for your student, which could set them apart from others, ask that EVERYONE in the class gets the same accommodations.



Supplementary Aids and Services

•“The term ‘supplementary aids and services’ means aids, services, and other supports that are provided in regular education classes or other education-related settings to enable children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled children to the maximum extent appropriate”
•So.... ASK FOR THEM!




Benefits of LRE

Think about the friends your student can make in the general education classroom



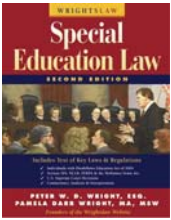
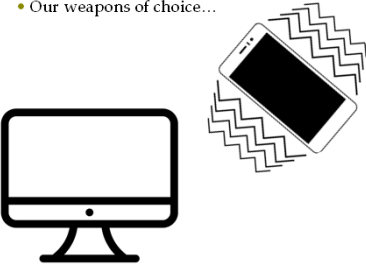
After the IEP Meeting



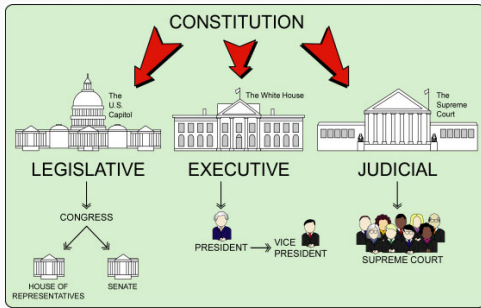
It's okay to take the night off. But when you get a copy of the IEP, formally respond to it, pointing out the "mistakes" and omissions. You'll remember everything because you recorded the meeting. Speaking for myself, I never met an IEP that didn't need to be corrected!

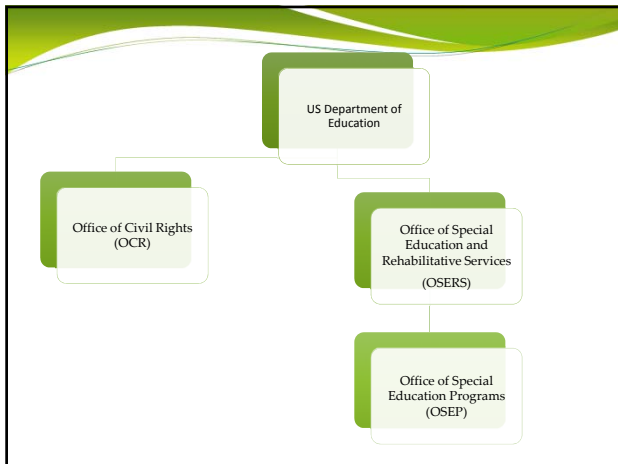
Your toolkit: evaluations, Guidance Letters, and Technology

- Our weapons of choice...



✓ Tip: When advocating for a student, arm yourself with the law Congress passed, the cases the courts interpreted, AND the guidance letters the US Department of Education (executive branch) has issued.





Utilizing Other Laws That Protect Individuals With Disabilities and the Agencies that Might Assist

- ✓Tip: Many Advocates, Attorneys, and Parents arm themselves with knowledge of IDEA. But don't forget there are many other laws that protect the children we care about...

Bullying; Title IX; OSEP Letters; Guardianship; Power of Attorney; Social Security; Medicaid; Supplemental Needs Trust; Professional Code of Responsibility for Educators; Voting; self-determination; donating blood; 504; ADA; Vocational Rehabilitation; FERPA; McKinney-Vento Act; No Child Left Behind; Common Core State Standards; state agencies and the laws in connection with them.

Bullying

- Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.
- stopbullying.gov



✓ Tip: There is no national bullying law so check what is in place in your state. Check also if your state department of education has a bullying coordinator.

Title IX

- On June 23, 1972, the President signed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., into law. Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.
- *"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."*

OSEP Letters

OSEP provides information, guidance and clarification regarding implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in a number of ways including OSEP Memos and Dear Colleague Letters, and OSEP Policy Letters.

Guardianship

- Guardianship strips away a person's fundamental rights. It is a lifelong removal of a person's basic control over his or her own life.
- Consider limited guardianship and Special Power of Attorney.

Social Security

- SSI – Apply when your child is 18!
(Some benefits available before age 18)
- Visit SSA.gov



✓ Tip: Our children can get really expensive. Make sure you understand all of the benefits your child is entitled to.

Medicaid – Title XIX (19)

- Program provides an array of medical benefits.
- Federally funded, but is administered by the states.
- States have flexibility in how funds are used.
- Eligibility based on disability and need.
- Could fund state sponsored residential living arrangements, and many community based programs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Supplemental Needs Trusts

- Supplement state and federal benefits preserves eligibility for governmental benefits and programs
- protects child from financial predators enhances the child's quality of life

✓ Tip: Don't let your child lose all benefits when Aunt Sally leaves them \$5,000 in her will.

Professional Code of Responsibility for Educators

- Check to see what your state say about the ethical standards of educators. The Code is a set of principles which the teaching profession expects its members to honor and follow. The are standards to guide conduct. If they are in violation of the code, they may lose their licensure and employment. Educators have responsibilities to the students, the profession, and the community.


Voting – A Constitutional Right




✓ Tip: Make sure students who are 18 years old get out and VOTE!



Self-Determination



- Check out sabeusa.org
- Teach and model advocacy




You can donate blood beginning at age 17 (some states 16)

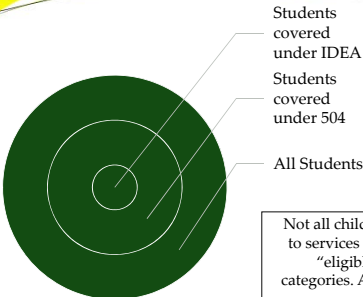


Donate Blood Save Life

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 29 U.S.C. Sec. 706 (8)



- “ No qualified individual with a disability shall, solely on the basis of his or her disability, be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”



Students covered under IDEA
Students covered under 504
All Students

Not all children with disabilities are entitled to services under IDEA, only those who are “eligible” under the specified disability categories. All students covered under IDEA are protected under 504.

✓ Tip: Section 504 is a comprehensive law with extensive protections. Learn what your rights are under 504. Don't think of a 504 plan as the “booby prize” if your student does not qualify for an IEP.

ADA = Civil Rights

- It's all about equality, and yeah, it's more than a ramp!

✓ Tip: Don't be afraid to ask for reasonable accommodations wherever your student goes!

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Congress finds that--
- (A) work--
- (i) is a valued activity, both for individuals and society; and
- (ii) fulfills the need of an individual to be productive, promotes independence, enhances self-esteem, and allows for participation in the mainstream of life in the United States;

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1973, as amended
TITLE I--VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
Part A--General Provisions
Sec. 100. Declaration of Policy; Authorization of Appropriations

FERPA – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

- FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.
- FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

✓ Tip: When it's time to lose your right to access your child's records, have them sign a Power of Attorney

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act



✓ Tip: Students who are homeless have many protections – make sure you know what they are!

Thanks to Kendra J. Vandertie, School Social Worker
Appleton Area School District for this slide

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)



COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE
PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

- A state-led effort that established a single set of clear educational standards for K – 12 English language arts and math that states voluntarily adopt.
- Designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit bearing entry courses in two or four year college programs or enter the workforce.
- Are clear and concise to ensure that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics in school.

CCSS

- Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- Are clear, understandable and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Are evidence-based.
- More info at corestandards.org

What does CCSS mean for students with disabilities?

✓Tip: This is a historic opportunity to improve access to rigorous academic content standards for students with disabilities!

Get to their hearts,
not their policy
manuals.



Judith Snow

It's not only about getting schools to comply with the law, they need to be invested in each child's success.

Thank you from Anne Treimanis



Parents Helping
Parents of WY
(307) 684-2277

- Thank you to the participants at the PIC Parent Conference on disAbilities. You attended because you care about students receiving special education services and their families
- Thanks Terri Dawson, Executive Director of PIC, for inviting me to Wyoming!
